



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON INVASIVE SPECIES

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Lyon Recognized as an Invader Crusader

The battle against invasive species in Wisconsin has been fought for many years. One person leading the charge against these unwanted, harmful pests is Terri Lyon, a local resident of Manitowoc County. Lyon has been selected to receive one of the inaugural Invader Crusader Awards presented by the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species.

The Invader Crusader Award was created to honor Wisconsin citizens and organizations for their significant contribution to the prevention or eradication of invasive species that harm Wisconsin's land and waters.

Lyon has been recognized as an Invader Crusader because of the remarkable contributions of volunteer time and energy she has made to battle purple loosestrife and promote native communities in wetlands.

"It is important that we acknowledge the growing threat from invasive species to our natural resources and work to find solutions," said Governor Jim Doyle. Invader Crusaders, such as Lyon, are part of the solution. Lyon volunteers her time as an educator, fundraiser, motivator, and beetle multiplier whose efforts are being felt through out the region. To date, Lyon and her growing coalition of volunteers are responsible for nearly 40,000 purple loosestrife munching beetles being released in Manitowoc County.

"Terri's efforts will benefit native wetland plant communities and the birds, frogs, turtles and mammals that thrive in healthy and native wetland habitats," says Laura England, Outreach Programs Director for Wisconsin Wetlands Association.

"Recreational users of waterways in the region may ultimately benefit as shorelines that are currently clogged with purple loosestrife may someday be restored to native plant communities that facilitate easier access to waterways."

Vickie Mayer with the Manitowoc County Soil and Water Conservation is encouraged by the effect Lyon has on people, young and old. "Terri has an impact on individuals and groups that is every bit as important as her impact on runaway purple loosestrife. Terri is developing citizen conservationists, who are taking ownership of a part of their environment and a part of their community."

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Although this was the first year of the award, the response was very positive.

“We received 31 nominations for 22 different people or groups,” explained Becky Sapper with The Nature Conservancy and Invasive Species Council member. “There are so many that deserve recognition for their efforts to control invasive species in Wisconsin. We have high hopes that the number of nominations will continue to grow.”

Other recipients of the 2005 Invader Crusader Award are:

Betty Czarapata (posthumous award), Muskego
St. Catherine’s High School Environmental Club, Racine
Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Odanah
Kelly Kearns, Department of Natural Resources, Madison
Kristin Westad, Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, Dodgeville

Invasive species cause harm to ecological resources, causing losses in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

For more information on the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species or the Invader Crusader Award, call 715-682-5789.

This news release is sponsored by the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species. The Wisconsin State Legislature created the Council, to which Governor Doyle appointed 13 members. The Council’s mission is to prevent and reduce the harmful impacts of invasive species on Wisconsin’s environment and economy, as well as human well-being. Funding for this news release was provided by the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the Natural Resource Foundation’s C.D. Besadny Conservation Grant Program.